

December 2, 2021

**RE: Keystone Exams**

Dear Parents / Guardians,

On January 4-7 and January 10-13, many of our high school students will be participating in the Keystone Exams. These tests are assessments done at the end of particular courses. They are required for students who have Mathematics (Algebra I), Science (Biology), and English 10 (Literature) classes. The tests are designed to assess proficiency in these subject areas. The results give us useful information to help us evaluate curriculum, teaching, student engagement, and effort. These tests are also part of the mandated requirements issued by the commonwealth. The test scores will also be reported on student transcripts. Students will be scored as Advanced, Proficient, Basic, or Below Basic. The passing grades are Proficient or Advanced. Students who have Biology or English 10 as a first semester class will be tested. Students who previously took the exams and did not score Proficient or Advanced will also be retesting at this time.

Students not being tested on these dates will report to school for a regular school day. The busses will run at the regular time.

The Biology Keystone test will be offered on January 4 and 5, the Literature Keystone exams will be offered on January 6 and 7 and the Algebra Keystone exams will be offered on January 10 and 11. The make-up days for these exams are January 12 and 13.

As a parent or guardian, you have the right to review the Keystone exams prior to the examination period. This review must be done on December 20-23. Reviews on December 23 will require an appointment. If you review the tests and believe that there is a conflict with your religious beliefs, you must notify the Superintendent of Schools in writing outlining the conflict.

Here is her address ...

Dr. Jodi Frankelli  
Superintendent of Schools  
680 Fourth Street  
Palmerton, PA 18071

You can also contact her via e-mail: [jfrankelli@palmerton.org](mailto:jfrankelli@palmerton.org)

During the actual tests, students are not permitted to have any electronic devices. If they enter the classroom with a device, we are required by the commonwealth to collect it. We do not have the option of simply telling them to put it in their locker. We are required to collect it. The device will be returned after the exam is completed. Here is the related statement from the Pennsylvania Department of Education ... "In an era of cell phones, smartphones and other electronic devices which can easily photograph and instantly share photographs, confidential and secure test materials can easily be compromised. Penalties for violations of the Copyright Act may include the cost of replacing the compromised test item(s) or fines of no less than \$750 up to \$30,000 for a single violation." Please remind your child of this restriction.

We have been identifying ways to ensure that our students have optimal test taking conditions. You can certainly help us in this area. As a parent, please make sure that your child gets plenty of rest each night before the test. Also, please make sure that they eat a good breakfast before coming to school.

As always, students will be able to have bottled water during the testing process. We will also provide a small snack to the students along with pencils and erasers. The school will be providing calculators to the students for the tests. If a student brings his/her own calculator, it will have to be approved by a teacher.

And finally, we ask that you make sure that your child is in school on the test days. Make-ups are not conducive to positive test taking results. Your child will be notified of the testing schedule.

If your child does not score at or above the “Proficient” level, we might have to alter their school schedule as part of a remediation effort when we receive the test scores in March.

Currently, we have an ACT 80 day scheduled for January 14. There will be no school for students on this day.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Paula A. Husar  
Principal

cc:	Dr. J. Frankelli	Superintendent
	J. Schuler	Director of Curriculum and Instruction / Human Resources
	D. Sodl	Assistant Principal- Secondary
	V. McHugh	Guidance Counselor (Grades 10 and 11)
	M. Schaffer	Guidance Counselor (Grades 9 and 12)